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25X1 German Democratic Republic

25X1 RESTRICTION OF DATA ON GDR ENTERPRISES

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In the past, GDR firms could place orders for standard specification sheets (DIN Normblaetter) with the West German Beuth-Vertrieb (distributing agency for the DNA) in Berlin and receive shipment by mail. Payment was made into an account maintained by the Beuth-Vertrieb in East Germany. Federations of People-Owned Enterprises (VVB's) were allowed membership in the DNA and paid dues according to the number of their employees. By March 1951 increasing difficulties were being experienced in carrying out this procedure. Directives concerning payments into the Beuth-Vertrieb's East German account were frequently changed, and Beuth shipment[s] were sometimes even confiscated by GDR postal authorities. GDR firms complained to the ministries, pointing out that, though DIN standards were prescribed, it was difficult or impossible to obtain standard specification sheets.

The Central Office for Research and Technology investigated the matter and recommended a revised procedure, which was accepted by representatives of the Beuth-Vertrieb and the DNA, but which will not go into effect until approved by the Berlin City Council (Senat). It provides that: (a) the DNA shall receive membership dues from VVB's in a lump sum through the Central Office for Research and Technology; (b) the DNA branch in Dresden will be moved to East Berlin to handle shipments from the Beuth-Vertrieb to the GDR; (c) people-owned enterprises (VEB's) will order standard specification sheets through the Koehler-Velkamm bookstore in Leipzig, which will assign a code number to each purchaser, forward the coded orders to the DNA branch in East Berlin, receive shipments, and transfer money periodically to the East German account of the Beuth-Vertrieb.

This complicated procedure is designed to prevent the DNA in West Berlin from learning the personnel strength and organizational set-up of VEB's, i.e., which VEB's belong to VVB's and which are administered directly by the ministries.

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